

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5432

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM CARGO CHARTERS BRUSSELS-LAGOS

1. BRUSSELS PAN AM REP O'GORMAN HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OF FOLLOWING INSTANCE OF POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN CARRIER BY BELGIAN CIVAIR AUTHORITIES. PAN AM APPLIED EARLY THIS MONTH FOR PERMISSION TO RUN THREE ALL-CARGO CHARTERS DURING NOVEMBER FROM BRUSSELS TO LAGOS. AFTER UNUSUAL DELAY BY BELGIANS IN REPLYING, PAN AM INQUIRED AS TO STATUS OF THESE APPLICATIONS. DGCA THEN INFORMED PAN AM IN WRITING THAT FIRST FLIGHT WAS APPROVED, BUT TWO OTHERS WERE DISAPPROVED BECAUSE OF AVAILABILITY OF BELGIAN CARRIER. O'GORMAN CHECKED FURTHER AND ASCERTAINED THAT IN FACT NO BELGIAN CARRIER HAD CAPACITY AVAILABLE TO CARRY THESE CARGOES. HE TOLD THIS TO DGCA VANDERPERREN BY TELEPHONE AND ASKED RECONSIDERATION OF REJECTED APPLICATIONS. VANDERPERREN REPLIED THAT IT WAS IRRELEVANT WHETHER BELGIAN CAPACITY ACTUALLY EXISTED; THE REAL POINT WAS THAT SABENA WISHES TO PROTECT THAT ROUTE FOR ITSELF AND, IF PAN AM WISHES TO PUT TRAFFIC ON IT, THEN PAN AM MUST MAKE A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT WITH SABENA.

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2. O'GORMAN ALSO POINTED OUT TO DGCA THAT THESE THREE PLANNED

FLIGHTS INVOLVED UK GOODS AND UK CHARTERER. THEY WERE TO BE FLOWN FROM BRUSSELS ONLY BECAUSE PAN AM'S MONTHLY ALLOTMENT OF FLIGHTS LONDON-LAGOS WAS EXHAUSTED FOR NOVEMBER. THUS BELGIUM STOOD TO PROFIT THROUGH FEES FOR USE OF FACILITIES, WHILE SABENA COULD NOT JUSTIFY CHARGE THAN PAN AM WAS COMPETING FOR BELGIUM-NIGERIA TRAFFIC.

3. O'GORMAN PRESUMES THAT THE NECESSARY "ARRANGEMENT" IS PAY-MENT OF COMMISSION TO SABENA, PROBABLY OF 5 PERCENT. PAN AM HAS DECIDED TO RUN ONE OF THE CHARTERS FROM AMSTERDAM, WHERE THEY ENCOUNTER NO DIFFICULTY OF THIS KIND, BUT O'GORMAN EXPECTS TO SPEAK TO SABENA ABOUT LIFTING ITS OBJECTION TO THE THIRD CARGO CHARTER, SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 28. ACCORDING TO O'GORMAN, SAS AND GABONESE-REGISTERED AFRETAIR BOTH OPERATE BRUSSELS-LAGOS ALL-CARGO CHARTERS.

4. O'GORMAN IS INFORMING HOME OFFICE OF THIS INCIDENT AND SUGGESTS THAT PAN AM/NEW YORK WILL JUDGE WHETHER IT SHOULD REQUEST ACTION BY CAB ON GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION.FIRESTONE

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